

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image sending and receiving system, comprising:
 - an image sending apparatus which comprises:
 - an image capturing device which captures an image;
 - a recording device which records the captured image on a recording medium;
 - an image selecting device which selects a desired image of images recorded on the recording medium;
 - a first communication device which has a first communication mode capable of sending an image capturing command to an external device and sending the selected image, and a second communication mode for functioning as an external recording device for the external device;
 - a transfer instruction device which outputs a transfer instruction for transferring the image selected by the image selecting device to the external device through the first communication device; and
 - an automatic mode switching device which automatically switches between the first communication mode and the second communication mode in the first communication device; and
 - an image receiving apparatus which comprises:
 - a second communication device which performs at least communication in the first communication mode with the image sending apparatus;
 - a recording device which records the image received through the second communication device; and
 - a mode switch control device which controls a switch between the communication modes of the image sending apparatus, wherein:
 - on checking that there has been the transfer instruction of the image from the transfer instruction device, the mode switch control device of the image receiving apparatus determines whether or not the communication mode with the image sending apparatus is the first communication mode, and sends a conversion command for ordering change to the first communication mode if determined that a current communication mode of the image sending apparatus is not the first communication mode; and

on receiving the conversion command from the image receiving apparatus, the automatic mode switching device of the image sending apparatus switches the communication mode of the first communication device to the first communication mode.

2. The image sending and receiving system as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the image sending apparatus further comprises a manual mode switching device which switches between the first communication mode and the second communication mode by manual operation; and
the mode switching by the automatic mode switching device takes preference over the mode switching by the manual mode switching device.
3. The image sending and receiving system as defined in claim 1, wherein the automatic mode switching device of the image sending apparatus switches the communication mode of the second communication device to the second communication mode in a case where a current communication mode is the first communication mode and it is in a non-connected state after connecting to the external device.
4. The image sending and receiving system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first communication mode is a PTP mode, and the second communication mode is a mass storage mode.
5. The image sending and receiving system as defined in claim 1, wherein the image sending apparatus is one of a digital camera, a scanner and a copying machine.
6. The image sending and receiving system as defined in claim 1, wherein the image receiving apparatus is one of a printer, a personal computer and a server.
7. An image sending apparatus, comprising:
an image capturing device which captures an image;
a recording device which records the captured image on a recording medium;
an image selecting device which selects a desired image of images recorded on the recording medium;

a communication device which has a first communication mode capable of sending an image capturing command to an external device and sending the selected image, and a second communication mode for functioning as an external recording device for the external device;

a transfer instruction device which outputs a transfer instruction for transferring the image selected by the image selecting device to the external device through the communication device; and

an automatic mode switching device which automatically switches between the first communication mode and the second communication mode in the communication device,

wherein on receiving the conversion command ordering change to the first communication mode from the image receiving apparatus through the communication device, the automatic mode switching device switches the communication mode of the communication device to the first communication mode.

8. An image receiving apparatus, comprising:

a communication device which has a first communication mode capable of, on receiving from an image sending apparatus an image capturing command of a desired image of images recorded on a recording medium in the image sending apparatus, capturing the image according to the received command;

a recording device which records the image received through the communication device; and

a mode switch control device which switches communication modes of the image sending apparatus,

wherein on checking that there has been a transfer instruction from the image sending apparatus through the communication device, the mode switch control device determines whether or not the communication mode with the image sending apparatus is the first communication mode, and sends a conversion command for ordering change to the first communication mode if determined that a current communication mode of the image sending apparatus is not the first communication mode.